

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 10689

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, NI
SUBJECT: THE CLASS OF '78: THE FMG LOWERS THE BOOM

REF: (A) LAGOS 9349 (B) STATE 181062

1. ACTING ON THE BASIS OF MOHAMMED COMMISSION OF INQUIRY
RECOMMENDATIONS, THE FMG HAS ORDERED THE DISMISSAL OF TWELVE
UNIVERSITY STAFF MEMBERS, THE EXPULSION OF THREE STUDENT LEADERS
AND THE FIRING OF A POLITICAL JOURNALIST FOR THE VARIOUS ROLES
THEY PLAYED IN THE APRIL-MAY STUDENT CRISIS.

2. THE FMG'S ACTION, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 25, ORDERED
THE REMOVAL OF THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS AND INSTRUCTORS:

-- PROFESSOR IYA ABUBAKAR
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR
-- PROFESSOR JACOB ADE AJAYI
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS VICE CHANCELLOR
-- DR. LADIPO SOGBETUN
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS HEALTH DIRECTOR
-- EBENEZER BABATOPE
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS STUDENT WELFARE OFFICER
-- DR. BADE ONIMODE, DR. WALE ADENERAN, COMRADE OLA ONI, DR.

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ONOGI, DR. AKIN OJO, ALL OF UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
-- DR. AND MRS. EDWIN MADUNAGU OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALABAR.
-- COMRADE LAOYI SANDA OF IBADAN PLYTECHNIC.

3. STUDENTS AFFECTED BY THE FMG'S ACTION ARE NATIONAL UNION
OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NUNS) PRESIDENT SEGUN OKEOWO, ABU UNION
PRESIDENT MALAM BUKAR MBAYA AND BENIN UNION PRESIDENT E. APPAH,

ALL OF WHOM ARE EXPELLED FOR TWO YEARS. (FYI: IT WAS A BAD WEEK FOR OKEOWO. THE LAGOS HIGH COURT THREW OUT HIS SUIT FOR REINSTATEMENT INTO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. ACCORDING TO JUSTICE AKIBO SAVAGE'S RULING, WHAT THE FMG GAVE, IT CAN TAKE AWAY. END FYI) THE FMG ALSO SAID THAT OTHER STUDENTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPING AND ASSAULTING POLICE OFFICIALS OR IN DAMAGING PROPERTY WOULD ALSO BE EXPELLED. FURTHERMORE, THE BAN ON NUNS WILL STAY IN EFFECT. STUDENT UNIONS AT INDIVIDUAL UNIVERSITIES, HOWEVER, WILL BE ALLOWED BUT MEMBERSHIP WILL NOT BE COMPULSORY. THE BOARD AND LODGING FEE INCREASES WHICH PRECIPITATED THE CRISIS WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT AND DAMAGE TO UNIVERSITY PROPERTY WILL BE REPAIRED AT STUDENT UNION EXPENSE.

4. THE POLITICAL JOURNALIST WHO WAS REMOVED BY THE FMG IS NIGERIAN CHRONICLE EDITOR BASSEY E. BASSEY.

5. COMMENT: UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBERS WHO WERE TRAVELLING WITH THE PRESIDENT SYSTEM SEMINAR GROUP TOLD US EARLY LAST WEEK THAT THERE WERE RUMORS ON CAMPUS THAT THE FMG'S ACTION WOULD BE FAIRLY DRACONIAN. REPORTEDLY, THE FMG WAS APPALLED AT THE DIMENSIONS OF INCOMPETENCE REVEALED IN THE INQUIRY REPORT. IN ANY CASE, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER THE FMG ACTION HAS ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS OF THE AMBITIOUS IYA ABUBAKAR.

6. IN A WIDER SENSE, THE FMG'S ACTION, IN OUR VIEW, IS ANOTHER
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DEMONSTRATION OF THE FACT THAT THE MALAISE AND DRIFT WHICH THE FMG FELL INTO AFTER THE APRIL-MAY CRISIS HAS ENDED AND A NEW TOUGHNESS AND DIRECTION IN POLICY IS TO BE EXPECTED. AS WITH THE LEADERSHIP RESHUFFLE IN MID-JULY AND THE APPOINTMENT OF STATE MILITARY ADMINISTRATORS, THE FMG HAS APPARENTLY REGROUPED ITSELF WITH AN EYE TO EXERCISING CONTROL OVER EVENTS AS WE MOVE TOWARD THE TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN RULE. END COMMENT.
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